

## **Improvements for Government Funding Projects to Promote the Advancement of Colleges**

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The purpose of this study is to propose new improvement measures for the government's funding projects implemented for 2-year vocational colleges in the year 2002, seeking ways to devise a more efficient and rational financial support project by producing improvement measures in conjunction with the Development Plan for 2-year Colleges announced by the Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development.

The purposes of the Development Plan for 2-year Colleges are:

First, promote specialized programs befitting the education environment of each college through restructuring and reinforcing financial independence;

Second, improve the quality of vocational/technical education through the reinforcement of on-site training;

Third, encourage colleges to raise quality workforce with professional technological capability.

The government funding project conducted during the past five years from 1997 to 2001 needs improvement using the above measures as guidelines.

The assessment process to determine eligibility for financial assistance in 2002 should break away from the current three-stage routine procedure, that is, the traditional assessment steps based on document reviews and seminars, followed by on-site assessments. Rather, a more flexible assessment procedure should be adopted based on the characteristics of each project. The criteria for evaluation has been categorized into the number of new students, percentage of reserve fund, and tuition to scholarship ratio. An assessment committee to carry out such functions should be established in 2002,

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since a permanent evaluation mechanism for this specific purpose does not yet exist. The 2002 committee should include one committee head, an assessment operation committee comprised of five members to oversee the assessment procedure, seven subcommittees with seven members each, constituting a total of 55 assessment members.

The total amount of 180.5 billion won has been earmarked for the fund for the 2002 government funding project, a 14 billion won increase from the 166.6 billion won in 2001. One of the most significant changes in the 2002 financial support project is that funding for programs to develop colleges in specialized areas has enjoyed the fastest growth at 137 billion won. The program comprises a total of seven areas including Restructuring Project and Industrial Technology Educating Complex Promotion Project newly included in the specialization program.

Government funding for Linkage Program Project for Curriculum of 2-year colleges with that of vocational high-schools as well as projects for implementing Customized Training Project is distributed to schools regardless of the number of the colleges included in the financial support project. However, it is notable that the support project divides the schools into three groups (A, B, C) to provide graded level of support.

The government funding project for the collaboration between the industry and the schools, which has been implemented separately until last year, has been integrated into the 2-year vocational college financial support project. 15 colleges have already been nominated in 2001 for a 3-year financial support. Based on factors including the performance of plan implementation, however, a 2-year financial support program will be finalized.

Beginning in year 2003, the financial support project will reflect the work-income ratio which shall be based on either the number of registered students or the maximum number of students assigned for each department, whichever is the greater. Further research on policy needs to be conducted to set the standards for additional factors such as work-income ratio, and/or passing rate for certificate exams, which needs to be added to the education value and assessment elements.